

Attachment “H”



Square Peg Clothing

Customized Clothing and Accessories

April 22, 2011

Manager, Customer Service Standardization
Attn: Retail Discontinuance
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Room 6816
Washington, DC 20260-6816

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MAY 2 2011

CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS

To whom it may concern:

I understand that changes have been proposed to the 39 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 241 that violate Title 39 of the United States Code.

The changes seem to center around modifying current laws that protect communities from losing their local post office presence without due process, as well as changes to the current level of responsibility expected of our postmasters.

I recently moved my home and my business to Tiona Pennsylvania. One of the nicest surprises of the move was to find that a local post office was a short distance from my home based business. I immediately began to make plans to switch from using UPS & FedEx as default shippers to USPS. This decision was initially considered because the cost of shipping via UPS and FedEx has become exorbitant, but it was cemented through my conversations with our Tiona postmaster Mr. Mark Zajac. He was instrumental in explaining to me the cost savings that I could realize by shipping with USPS while supporting an essential federal service that is suffering from the near monopoly status of the two largest corporate shipping tycoons in our country. With increases that are not commensurate with actual rising fuel and economic costs these behemoth organizations are definitely taking advantage of their stronghold on the business and consumer customer base that has been conditioned to feel they are the only options.

Now is not the time to reduce the presence of the U.S. Postal Service, now is the perfect time to fight for an equal share of this profitable multi-billion dollar industry. Make no mistake, we are permanently embedded in online commerce, which requires a method of shipping and businesses are searching for more economical options.

As a citizen of the United States and of Tiona Pennsylvania, I'm willing to do my part by making changes to my shipping choices, I hope the U.S. Postal Service is will to do theirs and stay the course.

I am opposed to any changes that result in directly or indirectly reducing the presence of our post offices, the right to due process if one is considered non-essential, and any reduction in the scope of responsibility that our postmasters currently have. These proposed changes are especially offensive when you consider that the 10,000 smallest post offices in our country represent only 7 tenths of 1% of the total USPS budget.

Sincerely,

Dona C. Parrotte
Owner



April 21, 2011

Not Just Consulting. Solutions.™

Manager, Customer Service Standardization
ATTN: Retail Discontinuance
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260-6816

Dear Manager, Customer Service Standardization:

On March 31, 2011 proposed rules to amend postal regulations were published in 39 CFR Part 241. The proposed rules outline procedures for consolidating and closing Post Offices and require a response no later than May 2, 2011.

In the interest of preserving postal service in our rural community we oppose any closing of our rural and small town post office in Sonoita, AZ (85637). Our local post office serves a vital and crucial service to our community.

Of course we depend on the postal service to deliver parcels and letters just as other larger cities. However, the local post office in our community provides services that would require us to travel 30 to 50 miles to obtain.

The closing of our post office would place undue hardship on many of our citizens. Many of our community are retired and elderly and cannot travel the long distance to nearest post office. Further, the increased burden and cost of gasoline to travel to the nearest post office significantly increases the cost of shipping parcels, packages and registered and certified letters. The cost of other alternatives is prohibitive as well.

I have chosen to use the USPS exclusively for my shipping and mailing needs over other alternatives. Our business ships using flat rate boxes, express rate and priority rate envelopes for workbooks for our executive retreats here in Southern Arizona, employee handbooks to our clients, important client documents, time sensitive training materials for our workshops and seminars, and time sensitive contracts for our services. If we had to use other carriers our expenses would increase and place an extra cost burden on our business and time lags would impair our ability to respond to client needs and interests. We made a choice to use the USPS exclusively based on cost and service. If our rural post office it would mean an increase in our cost basis and time lost to secure other services. USPS has a competitive advantage in our community that we do not want to lose.

Our local post office is needed in our community, we depend on it and support it wholeheartedly and depend on daily. Please consider this as you determine the consolidation process.

Sincerely,

Orlando Blake, PhD CPT
President

CC: John McCain; John Kyl; Gabrielle Giffords

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MAY 4 2011

**CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS**

132 Church Lane
Mooresburg, TN 37811

April 25, 2011

Manager, Customer Service Standardization
ATTN: Retail Discontinuance
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 6816
Washington, DC 20260-6816

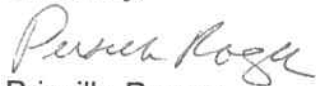
Dear Sir:

As a resident of a growing, rural community where we have fought hard to preserve our post office, I am very concerned about the proposed postal regulations that would speed up post office closings without giving people, who are affected, a real voice. While I understand the need to save funds, you are taking away the democratic process we have always had in this country and are particularly affecting people in rural communities. The postal service in a rural community is not "just" a nameless clerk across a wide expanse of desk. In a rural community, postal employees are an integral part of the community, offering much more than a stamp and a friendly smile. They are often the lifeline and lifeblood of a rural community to the point of even saving lives.

Rural communities often do not have a retail outlet in which stamps and other postal products can be purchased, putting patrons at a real disadvantage. You are seeking to change the very framework of our postal system. You might as well hand it over to private carriers.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to nix the new regulations regarding the review process for postal closings.

Sincerely,


Priscilla Rogers

cc:
Senator Lamar Alexander
Congressman Phil Roe

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MAY 2 2011

CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS



April 14, 2011

Manager of Customer Service Standardization
Attention: Retail Discontinuance
475 L'enfant Plaza SW Room 6816
Washington, DC 20260-6816

Re: Proposed Regulations to Ease Closing Review Process

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to inform you that I and many other rural Americans are totally against any closing of small town post offices. These are the main center for many small towns and without them you would be doing a total injustice to these residents of which many are older citizens of these towns.

I realize this letter may have little or no bearing on your ultimate decision, but rest assured many of us want our voice heard. DON'T CLOSE OUR POST OFFICES.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mike Hook". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Mike Hook

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MAY 3 2011

**CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS**

40 West Third Street
Box 406
Newburg, MO 65550

April 28, 2011

Mgr. Customer Service Standardization
Attn: Retail Discontinuance
475 LaEnfant Plaza SW
Room 6816
Washington, DC 20260-6816

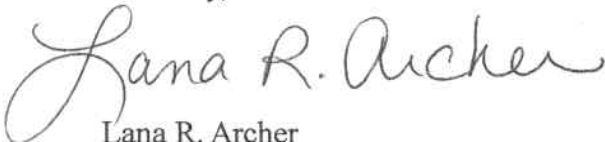
Dear Sirs:

I am writing regarding the cutting of the hours and possible closing of the Newburg Missouri Post Office. I believe this would be a mistake and would cause a lot of hardship on a lot of people who live in this small town.

In this community, we have a lot of elderly and disabled patronage. My own father, Leonard Harris, is blind and lives here, and if you cut the hours or close, this will make it so he cannot get his own mail anymore. He has a seeing eye dog and he can walk to town and get his own mail right now. I doubt you will start delivering to the homes in our community if you close this one, so the only option will be to go to the next town, Rolla, which is 6 miles away. A lot of the elderly do not drive and my father can't drive, so therefore, they will now have the burden of having to find a way to get their mail and someone to always drive them. Now, they can walk to get their mail and it is enjoyable as they can stop and visit others who live here. If they are unable to walk, the community is small enough that everyone knows everyone and they get the mail for their neighbors. Cutting the hours also makes the timing and availability limited for everyone who work in our community. I work for the Newburg School, and it closes now at 3:45 pm. I get off at 3:30 and it is nice that it is still open so I can do my business and open on Saturday for others to do their business.

Now the service at the Newburg Post Office does need improving as there are a lot of mistakes and one rude employee, but we appreciate having it here. We can work together to make the service better and I would like you to please not close or cut the hours of the Newburg Missouri Post Office. I believe this would be a detriment to our community.

Sincerely,



Lana R. Archer
Special Education Paraprofessional
Newburg R-2 School District

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MAY 4 2011

**CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS**

Please do not change the regulations!

Attn: Retail Discontinuance
475 L'Enfante Plaza, SW
Room 6816
Washington DC, 20260-6816

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MAY 2 2011

CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS

To Whom it may concern:

The Federal Register proposed regulations - 39 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 241 - violates Title 39 of the United States Code. Postmasters are specially trained to run offices and allow offices to be run by anyone who is not accountable to the community is not right. There are laws to govern the closing of offices that should continue to be adhered to. A person who has no knowledge of the area or community should not be the person to initiate the discontinuance study. Just because the numbers show up on paper the real effects of the community may be quite different than what it appears. A Vice President for USPS has no idea of community needs. The postal service was organized to bind the nation together and serve patrons everywhere. The rural areas should not be discriminated against. The elderly don't use computers as often & internet speed is so slow that the postal service is very important to us. Current law entitles communities to the due process.

Ample time is needed for consumers to respond and the discontinuance process should not be rushed through.

There are some post offices that do need to be closed but the current law and process is a good one. No changes are necessary. I am very much against the changes proposed to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) ^{Part} 24

Sincerely,

Kathy Saylor
20055 S. Hartsburg Hills Rd
Hartsburg, MO 65039

Irma E. Federico

April 24, 2011

Manager, Customer Service Standardization
ATTN: Retail Discontinuance
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260-6816

Dear Retail Discontinuance Department,

On March 31, 2011 proposed rules to amend postal regulations were published in 39 CFR Part 241. The proposed rules outline procedures for consolidating and closing Post Offices and require a response no later than May 2, 2011.

In the interest of preserving postal service in our rural community we oppose any closing of our rural and small town post office in Sonoita, AZ. Our local post office serves a vital and crucial service to our community.

Of course we depend on the postal service to deliver parcels and letters just as other larger cities. However, the local post office in our community provides services that would require us to travel 30 to 50 miles to obtain.

The closing of our post office would place undue hardship on many of our citizens. Many of our community are retired and elderly and cannot travel the long distance to nearest post office. Further, the increased burden and cost of gasoline to travel to the nearest post office significantly increases the cost of shipping parcels, packages and registered and certified letters. The cost of other alternatives is prohibitive as well.

Our local post office is needed in our community, we depend on it and support it wholeheartedly and depend on daily. Please consider this as you determine the consolidation process.

I believe so strongly in keeping our post office open that I am taking time from my vacation to send this letter. As a rural resident, we have few conveniences' our post office is one of those conveniences and our taxes gladly pay for that privilege.

Sincerely,

Irma E. Federico
Resident Elgin Arizona,

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MAY 13 2011

CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS

Rancho de Dos Locos

HC1, Box 577

Elgin, Az 85611

April 28, 2011

15778 RD RR
Akron, Co 80720

Manager, Customer Service Standardization
Attn: Retail Discontinuance
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 8616
Washington D.C., 20260

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MAY 2 2011

CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regard to the proposed regulations which would eliminate face-to-face contact between customers and USPS workers, and also the possibility of shutting down smaller, rural Post Offices.

I AM AGAINST THESE NEW REGULATIONS!!!!!! Keep the post offices in small towns and rural America OPEN!!!!!! Our businesses and our everyday lives depend on these services.

Please reconsider implementing these rules!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rita Young". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Rita Young



Town of Campbellton

5283 Highway 231
Post Office Box 38
Campbellton, Florida 32426

Phone: (850) 263-4535
Fax: (850) 263-8502
Email: tc32426@bellsouth.net

March 30, 2011

Manager,
Customer Service Standardization
ATTN: Retail Discontinuance
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Room 6816
Washington, DC 20260-6816

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Town Council of the Town of Campbellton, FL in Jackson County requests that you include a provision in your new rule: 39 CFR Part 241, (Post Office Organization and Administration, Establishment, Classification, and Discontinuance) that will allow the municipal government of a rural community to underwrite profitability of the local post office to the breakeven point and to retain service in the area where moving the office will place an undue economic hardship on the citizens of the community (ie. In an area of critical concern in a State or in a Federal Enterprise Zone, or an area that has over 50% low to moderate income households). This could be done by use of a Reimbursable Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding.

Small rural post offices amount to less than .7%, (less than 1%) of the postal budget. No significant savings will result from their closure. If a community feels strongly enough about retaining the Federal presence in their area that they are willing to pay for it, so that the postal service does not incur any loss on the operation yet helps provide jobs at wage levels that support local rural economies, then it is recommended that postal service give consideration to this option.,

Thank you for allowing us to have this input on a subject of grave concern to our rural community.

Sincerely,

Wanda M. Moore

Wanda M. Moore, President
Town Council

received
4/19/2011

To whom it may concern:

It has been brought to the attention of the City of Ravenna's Council of Commissioners that The US postal service has placed our Post Office on the DUO list and intends to move the rural route to the Ivanhoe, TX Post Office.

In our view, the proposal to move the rural route from the Ravenna Post Office to the Ivanhoe Post Office will ill-serve your constituents in Ravenna. It is also important to note that according to the Postal Regulatory Commission, Maintaining all small and rural Post Offices amounts to less than 0.7% of the Postal Service's operating budget. As you may know, current law prohibits the Postal Service from consolidating a Post Office solely because the individual Post Office may have expenses that exceed revenue. Congress obligates the Postal Service to provide a maximum degree of effective and regular mail service to rural areas, communities and small towns where the Post Office is not self-sustaining.

1. We are working to grow our community to draw new business and residents to the incorporated town of Ravenna and losing our Post Office to a non incorporated town would hurt these efforts and be a major setback for our growth.
2. The Ravenna office is located between the New City Hall and the well established community center.
3. The Incorporated City of Ravenna has had two new businesses formed within the last four months and currently nine similar businesses on the rural route that is under attack and is proposed to move.
4. These businesses require access to a local Post Office not only for receiving mail but also for shipping of goods and products.
5. Many customers and businesses on the Ravenna route will be 18 miles or more from the Ivanhoe Post Office. In a direction that is out of their way and not conducive to a daily trip to the Post Office, where their certified letters, packages, etc will be left. Unless a dismount is added to the rural delivery which increases cost.
6. Changing the Route from The Incorporated City of Ravenna Post Office to the non incorporated town of Ivanhoe's Post Office will also disrupt the flow of the mail and the timing of deliveries to the over 500 families and business that currently count on this vital service.
7. The gaining office, Ivanhoe, will have an increase in office level which increases that postmasters pay thereby nullifying those savings. Not to mention the cost to set up and maintain this route and the change in the "Line of Range". While it has been stated that it will not increase the Postmasters pay, no evidence or logical thinking backs up this statement.
8. The Route Carrier sells a considerable number of stamps each month to the over 500 deliveries on this route, this revenue would also change to Ivanhoe.
9. Currently the rural mail carrier lives four blocks from the Ravenna Post Office but nine miles from the Ivanhoe Post Office increasing the "coverage" time on the carrier. Mail will still be arriving and leaving on the current schedule at the Ravenna Post Office.

We propose that the Ravenna rural route be kept in The Incorporated City of Ravenna and that if changes need to be made; those changes take in the effect on your constituents in Ravenna.

We appreciate your time and concern about your constituents in Ravenna and hope that you will aggressively fight to protect The Ravenna Post Office.

Sincerely,



Claude Lewis

Mayor City Of Ravenna



Ronnie Bruce

City Commissioner/Mayor Pro Tem



Joseph Passanisi

City Commissioner

April 15, 2011
Mendocino, California

Manager Customer Service Standardization
475 L' Enfant Plaza SW Room 6816
Washington, D.C. 20260-6816

Dear Sir,

Living in a small rural area and several miles from a larger town, I would like to request that you keep these small United States Post Offices open. It will become a real handicap for many people if they are closed.

We would truly miss our face to face contact with our local postal employees. Also, our local post office enables us to meet our neighbors and keep up on local news. Much of our Americana will be lost if our smaller post offices are closed.

Please, keep our small town and rural post offices open.

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APR 19 2011

CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS

Sincerely
Harriet Justinen

C.C. Diane Feinstein
Barbara Boxer

April 16, 2011

Manager, Customer Service Standardization,
Attn: Retail Discontinuance
415 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Room 6816
Washington, D.C. 20260-6816

Dear Sir:

This letter is in reference to
Post Offices in small towns and rural
America. Please Keep the offices in
our small areas OPEN. We need
them. Small communities are
dependent on this service and need
it for continued growth and
survival.

Thank you for your consideration
of this matter for our great nation.

Edward T. Zeigler
622 Stanton Dr.
North Augusta, S.C.

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APR 19 2011

CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS

The city government of the City of Ravenna, Texas.
Wishes to express our concern in the two changes being purposed
to Title 39.

1. The change in definition of Postmaster.
2. The change to permit the USPS to convert a Post office to a subordinate postal facility.

We urge you to strongly oppose these changes in that they would drastically change the safe guards congress has set to protect and preserve the small towns, and rural community mail services.

Mayor city of Ravenna
Claude Lewis

City commissioner/Mayor Por Tem
Ronnie D Bruce

City Commissioner
Joseph Passanisi

Sarah and Ted Pongracz
176 - South Collier Boulevard
#304
Marco Island, Florida 34141
sarahpongracz@yahoo.com
April 29, 2011

Manager
Customer Service Standardization
Attn: Retail Discontinuance
475 - L'Enfant Plaza SW
Room 6816
Washington, D.C. 20260-6816

RECEIVED
MAY 3 2011
CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS

Dear Manager, Customer Service Standardization

We have been notified that the Goodland, Florida Post Office (34140) is a potential candidate for closure. The Goodland Post Office is over 6 miles from any other Post Office. We don't want the Goodland Post Office designated as a station or a branch and closed. This will cause great inconvenience and hardship to the 300 residents of Goodland and the others who use it. Goodland is a small community and many residents and users do not have regular transportation. The Goodland Post Office is the center of the community. Most residents walk or ride their bikes to get the mail. The residents do not have home delivery. We stay on our boat at the Calusa Island Yacht Club and Marina in Goodland. Many boaters

→

use the Goodland Post Office as
their address, and walk to the Post
Office because they don't have cars.
Please reconsider your decision
to close the Goodland Post Office.

OBSERVATIONS
CUSTOMER SERVICE

NYA

Sincerely,

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Sarah and Ted Pongratt

April 21, 2011

Eleanor G. McMichen

Trust u/w/o John Gallo

PO Box 368

Sagamore Bch., MA 02562-0368

To Whom It May Concern:

I/We are opposed to your proposed regulations, published in the Federal Register, which would eliminate face-to-face contact between USPS and customer regarding the closing of post offices.

Our postal facility is rural to which many customers must walk. The area has been growing in recent years with many new homes/families. A very large commercial project is underway which this post office would service.

Location: 883 Sandwich Rd.

Town of Bourne

Sagamore, MA 02561

Sincerely,



Eleanor G. McMichen

CC: U. S. Congress

RECEIVED

MAY 3 2011

CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS

Village of Loreauville

P.O. Box 336, Loreauville, Louisiana 70552

(337) 229-8306 - Fax: (337) 229-4450

Website: www.loreauville.us

Email: loreauville@cox-internet.com

Mayor:

Albert A. Broussard, Jr.

Board of Aldermen:

Mark Landry

Tony J. Broussard

Sandy Sonnier, Mayor Pro-tempore

Clerk/Tax Administrator:

Phyllis B. Savoy, MMC

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MAY 2 2011

CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS

April 27, 2011

Manager, Customer Service Standardization
Attn: Retail Discontinuance
Room 6816
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260-6816

The administration of the Village of Loreauville is opposed to the proposed regulation (39 CFR 241.1) We object to tampering with the statutory definition of Postmaster and the agency's use of regulatory "slight of hand" to irreparably undermine a community's statutory due process rights.

Thanks for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,



Albert A. Broussard, Jr.
Mayor of Loreauville

AAB/SR:ps



April 28, 2011

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Manager
Customer Service Standardization
Attn: Retail Discontinuance
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Room 6816
Washington, DC 20260-6816

MAY 2 2011

CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS

RE: City of Dickinson's Opposition to Proposed Amendments to 39 CFR 241, Post Office Organization and Administration; Establishment, Classification and Discontinuance, as Filed by the U. S. Postal Service

Dear Sir or Madame:

This letter shall serve as the City of Dickinson, Texas' formal opposition to the proposed amendments to 39 CFR 241, Post Office Organization and Administration; Establishment, Classification and Discontinuance, as posted in Federal Register, Volume 76, No. 62, on March 31, 2011.

Based on the City's review, the proposed amendments would substantially change the process for closing and consolidating existing Post Offices, and such proposed amendments would essentially prevent a community, such as Dickinson, from protesting such an action. Additionally, the proposed amendments could affect ZIP code assignments, the reclassification of Post Offices to postal stations or branches which would increase the ease with which such locations could be closed or consolidated, and the elimination of the position of Post Master which would ultimately result in reduced service levels for Dickinson customers.

Process for Closing or Consolidating a Post Office

In the amendments proposed by the U. S. Postal Service, the process for closing a Post Office would become more of an administrative decision, and the criteria upon which the determination is made will mainly be based on financial circumstances. While the affected community will receive notice of a proposed closing, a public meeting will be conducted, and there is an opportunity to appeal a decision to close a post office to the Postal Regulatory Commission, the proposed amendments specifically provide that the Commission may only affirm the Postal Service determination or return the matter for further consideration but may not modify the determination. So, the point of an appeal is moot.

The proposed amendments also substantively change the criteria upon which a decision to close a post office is made to more financial criteria rather than the effects on a community or the actual service provided. The new criteria would be:

- A postmaster vacancy;
- Emergency suspension of the facility due to cancellation of a lease or rental agreement when no suitable alternate quarters are available in the community, a fire or other natural disaster, severe health or safety hazards, challenge to the sanctity of the mail or similar reasons;
- Earned workload below the minimum establish level for the lowest non-bargaining (EAS) employee grade;
- Insufficient customer demand, evidenced by declining or low volume, revenue, revenue units, local business activity, or local population trends;
- The availability of reasonable alternate access to postal services for the community served by the USPS-operated retail facility; or
- The incorporation of two communities into one or other special circumstances.

"The availability of reasonable alternate access to postal services for the community served by the USPS-operated retail facility" is an interesting criteria since it is clear based on the proposed amendments that the Postal Service is planning to outsource postal services through contractor-operated retail facilities. This particular criteria would open the door for administrative decisions on the part of the Postal Service in terms of closing Post Offices like the one in Dickinson.

Reclassification of Post Offices and Possible Elimination of Post Master Position

Another provision of the proposed amendments is the ability to reclassify "Post Offices" to "Stations" or "Branches," and such reclassification would not be considered a "discontinuance" or closure of the Post Office and thus not an action for which the closure process would apply. This is significant because the Dickinson Post Office could unilaterally and administratively be reclassified by the Postal Service as a "station" or "branch", and the Post Master could be removed entirely. The City of Dickinson would have little or no recourse if the Postal Service were to take this type of action. At this time, the Post Master has decision-making authority in terms of resolving issues for customers. If the Dickinson Post Office were reclassified to be a "station" or "branch," there would be no one with decision-making authority in the community to actually resolve issues.

Because of the significance of the impact the proposed amendments to 39 CFR 241 could have on the City of Dickinson, the Dickinson City Council took formal action on April 26, 2011, to oppose the proposed amendments to 39 CFR 241.

Manager, Customer Service Standardization
April 28, 2011
Page Three

The City of Dickinson hereby opposes the proposed amendments to 39 CFR 241 in their entirety. The City of Dickinson also requests that any amendments to the Postal Regulations that could substantively impact communities such as these proposed amendments be discussed with the communities themselves or national organizations that represent cities such as the National League of Cities (NLC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), both of which are headquartered in Washington, DC, and not solely through the administrative process in Washington, DC.

Should you have any questions concerning the City of Dickinson's comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at (281) 337-6204.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie M. Johnston
City Administrator

c: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members



Township of Green

P.O. BOX 65, 150 KENNEDY RD.
TRANQUILITY, N.J. 07879
TELEPHONE: (908) 852-9333
FAX: (908) 852-1972

April 29, 2011

Manager, Customer Service Standardization
Attn: Retail Discontinuance
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Room 6816
Washington, DC 20260-6816

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MAY 2 2011

CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS

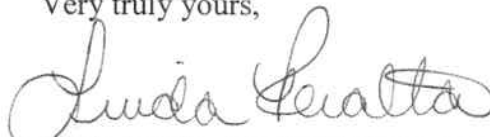
Dear Sir,

The Township Committee of the Township of Green in the County of Sussex and State of New Jersey adopted the attached Resolution #2011-72 at their meeting on Monday evening April 25, 2011. The Resolution is opposed to and strongly objects to the US Postal Service regulations filed on March 31, 2011.

Green Township is a small rural town in New Jersey and is fortunate to host two small rural Post Offices within its borders. The Post Offices serve as "hubs" of this farming community, one of the last in New Jersey well known as the Garden State. They also preserve the history of the community as they identify the areas known as Greendell and Tranquility, two historic areas existing prior to Green Township's incorporation in 1824.

The Green Township Committee respectfully requests that the regulations be reconsidered. The Committee is opposed to losing the statutory due process rights currently afforded them under the current legislation which would afford them the opportunity to preserve these two very important pieces of Green Township history.

Very truly yours,


Linda Peralta, Clerk/Administrator

cc. Senator Lautenberg
Senatore Menendez
Congressman Garrett
Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe

April 27, 2011

Retail Discontinuance
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Room 6816
Washington, DC 20260-6816

Manager, Customer Service Standardization,

I have reviewed the proposed regulations the U.S. Postal Service filed in regards to 39 CFR Part 241. There are two particular proposals that I am in disagreement with.

The proposed regulations would enable the Postal Service to unilaterally consolidate an existing post office by redesignating it as a "station or branch". This would make it easier for the Postal Service to close offices. This clearly violates current law 39 USC 404(d) with regard to the statutory post office consolidation process. The postal-served community would be denied the legal right to appeal any closing to the Postal Regulatory Commission when the Postal Service decides to close the postal facility. Community notification & input would no longer be a requirement before a postal facility is closed. It appears the Postal Service is attempting to circumvent Title 39 with these changes.

The proposed regulation (39 CFR 241.1) also violates the law by redefining the position of "Postmaster" which is presently defined by law. The Postmaster Equity Act established the statutory position of Postmaster. I am against any change in the language that would allow a post office to be managed by anyone other than a "Postmaster". The proposed changes would conflict with the law. One of the core duties of a Postmaster is community relations. If an office is left without a Postmaster who will take over these duties?

I hope that you will consider my position on these important matters and how they will affect my community.

Sincerely,



T. E. Pledger, Jr.
P O Box 43, Doss, TX 78618

RECEIVED

MAY 3 2011

CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS

TOWN OF ETOWAH

P.O. BOX 113
4670 WEST STATE HWY 136
ETOWAH AR 72428



April 26, 2011

Manager, Customer Service Standardization
Attn: Retail Discontinuance
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Room 6816
Washington, DC 20260-6816

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that the Postal Service is look at ways around closing local Post Offices in rural towns. From my understanding they are going to convert post offices to subordinate facilities, known as Stations or Branches which are not protected under the law the way post offices are.

I have attached a sheet that shows some of the post offices proposals. I as the Mayor of the Town of Etowah (72428) am opposed to any means that would allow the closing of our Post Office. Our town needs it post office and I know that the USPS is under the gun to cut budgets but there are several other ways that could be enacted. I know our town alone has 3 zip codes that run routes through our town, 72370 Osceola which is 18 miles to the East, 72442 which are 18 miles to the North and our own post office which is 72428. This does not include a post office out in the middle of the country at West Ridge 72391 that is only 2 miles outside our city limits.

Please help us save our post office and the other small town's offices.

Sincerely,

Charles McCollum, Mayor
Town of Etowah
(870) 740-3323

RECEIVED

MAY 2 2011

CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS

Russell & Jacqui Swert
N12325 State Hwy 13
Fitzgerald, WI 54524

4/7/11

Manager Customer Service Standardization

ATTN Retail Discontinuance

475 L'Enfant Plaza SW Room 6816

Washington DC 20260-6816

Dear Manager Customer Service,

I am concerned that the Postal Service is trying through regulation to accomplish what it has not been able to accomplish through legislation. They are trying to get the unfettered ability to close as many small rural Post Offices they want without taking in to account all the reasons they are there. The needs of rural America, not to mention the proud heritage or the United States Postal Service and the historical significance (Ref. Publication 119: PSN 7610-05-000-4418) of many of the rural offices deserve much more. The Postal Service has filed formal notice through the Federal Register of a proposed change to the Discontinuance (closing) process for Post Offices found in 39 CFR Part 241. This is different from US Code Title 39 which is law; these are Postal Service regulations and do not need legislative approval or a bill to change. There are three major changes proposed in CFR 241 which warrant your direct attention and considering the ramifications of the changes proposed in CR 241 I've highlighted each as follows.

The first change proposes applying the discontinuance process to all Postal Service operated retail facilities. This means the process would to some extent include stations and branches where currently only independent Post Offices are covered under the formal closing process. The major problem with this change is that they can convert an independent Post Office to a station or branch without initiating a formal consolidation or closing process, which they have to do at the present time. By doing so they also leave the office open to easier closing since there are no appeal rights for station and branches. In this fashion, the federal register would enable bureaucrats to circumvent procedures, eliminate red tape, and prevent those in smaller communities from their right to appeal. This would open the door to thousands of Post Offices being run without a Postmaster in charge and easier closings in the future. Next, the requirement that a District Manager must initiate the study of a USPS-operated facility for possible discontinuance has also been changed to allow a responsible Vice President to initiate a study. The change in itself seems to expand upon the responsibilities of postal leadership; however, I argue that this change will instead impede District Managers of their ability/judgment to assess community needs. Where one may see such change as delegation, another will see this as undermining another's authority or tactfully removing personnel. I argue that careful balance and tact must instead be applied and that raw figures don't necessarily represent facts. As is, a District Manager is afforded

responsibilities and as a senior leader should be empowered to initiate studies as appropriate and in collaboration with the community and the Vice President as directed.

This next change makes it even more questionable, one of which would allow a responsible Vice President or Area Manager of Delivery Programs Support to decide that a community meeting is no longer required. This is not acceptable in our eyes nor should it be for the citizens in America. Why would this ever be considered when you are talking about the possible end of a community? Such a change would virtually cut off the voice of America and encroach on the community's rights to voice their opinions and concerns with regard to their postal service. If the United States Postal Service continues down such a trek it will inevitably destroy any remaining chances it has in serving this great nation as it has abandoned people's heritage, appeals, needs, and rights.

Jacqui Sweet
Russell C. Sweet

RECEIVED

APR 14 2011

CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS

Alfred A. Weinzierl
18211 FM 2093
Harper, Texas 78631
830-990-8536 phne/fax

April 12, 2011

Manager, Customer Service Standardization
Attn: Retail Continuance 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Room 6816
Washington, DC 20260-6816

USPS-Proposed Rules Changes

Sir,

I have reviewed the proposed regulations the U.S. Postal Service filed in regards to 39 CFR Part 241. There are two particular proposals that I am in disagreement with:

The proposed regulations would enable the Postal Service to unilaterally consolidate an existing post office by redesignating it as a "station or branch". This would make it easier for the Postal Service to close offices. This clearly violates current law 39 USC 404(b) with regard to the statutory post office consolidation process. The postal-served community would be denied the legal right to appeal any closing to the Postal Regulatory Commission when the Postal Service decides to close the postal facility. Community notification & input would no longer be a requirement before a postal facility is closed. It appears the Postal Service is attempting to circumvent Title 39 with these changes.

The proposed regulation (39 CFR 241.1) also violates the law by redefining the position of "POSTMASTER" which is presently defined by law. The Postmaster Equity Act established the statutory position of POSTMASTER. I am against any change in the language that would allow a post office to be managed by anyone other than a "POSTMASTER". The proposed changes would conflict with the law. One of the core duties of a POSTMASTER is community relations. If an office is left without a POSTMASTER who will take over these duties?

I hope that you will consider my position on these important matters and how they will affect my community.

Very truly yours,


Alfred A. Weinzierl

Cc: US Congressman K. Michael Conaway
11th District of Texas

County Annex
104 N. Sandstone
Llano, TX 78643

JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN, CONNECTICUT, CHAIRMAN

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DANIEL K. AKAKA, HAWAII
THOMAS R. CARPER, DELAWARE
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RAND PAUL, KENTUCKY

MICHAEL L. ALEXANDER, STAFF DIRECTOR
NICHOLAS A. ROSSI, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

May 2, 2011

Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Postmaster General Donahoe:

I am writing to express my views on the U.S. Postal Service's proposed rule to amend 39 C.F.R. Part 241 to update rules on postal facility classification, consolidations, and discontinuance. While I applaud the effort that went into developing these regulations to better align facility closure and consolidation procedures as recommended by the Postal Regulatory Commission, I have concerns that the new post office management structure proposed in the regulation is inconsistent with current law.

As you know, I authored the Postmaster Equity Act of 2003 (Pub. L. 108-83), which granted postmasters and postmasters' organizations the same consultation and other rights afforded to supervisors and supervisors' organizations. My legislation defined a postmaster as "an individual who is the manager in charge of the operations of a post office, with or without the assistance of subordinate managers or supervisors."¹ This definition mirrors the definition in the Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM) 113.3.

The statutory and ELM definitions both contradict the Postal Service's proposed rule, which states "a post office may be operated or managed by a postmaster or by another type of postal employee." The statute is clear that the manager in charge of operations of a post office is postmaster, not some other type of postal employee.

The intention of this redefinition is unclear. The new definition may contemplate individual postmasters being given the responsibility to manage multiple post offices, in addition to managing subordinates at stations and branches. Alternatively, it may contemplate other supervisors being given all of the responsibilities for managing a post office, but simply being denied the designation of a postmaster. Either possibility circumvents the intent of Congress in the Postmaster Equity Act.

While I understand the difficult economic circumstances faced by the Postal Service, such an organizational change that would contradict Title 39 should be considered as part of a

¹ 39 U.S.C. §104(i)(3)

change to law rather than a rule. Accordingly, I request that the Postal Service modify the proposed §241.1 to reflect the current statutory definition of a postmaster. Any changes to that definition must appropriately be debated by the Congress.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Aloha pumehana,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel K. Akaka". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Daniel K. Akaka
Chairman, Subcommittee on Oversight of
Government Management, the Federal Workforce,
and the District of Columbia

WILLIAM L. OWENS
23RD DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
AIR AND LAND FORCES
STRATEGIC FORCES

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY
EMERGING THREATS, CYBERSECURITY, AND
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS,
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2011

PLEASE RESPOND TO
WASHINGTON OFFICE:

☐ 2366 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3223
(202) 225-4611

DISTRICT OFFICE:

☐ 120 WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 200
WATERTOWN, NY 13601-3370
(315) 782-3150

☐ 14 DURKEE STREET, SUITE 320
PLATTSBURGH, NY 12901-2998
(518) 563-1406

Manager, Customer Service Standardization
Attn: Retail Discontinuance
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Room 6816
Washington, DC 20260-6816

Re: Comments on proposed rulemaking
39 CFR Part 241
Post Office Organization and Administration: Establishment, Classification, and Discontinuance

Dear Manager,

It is my understanding that the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has proposed regulations to improve the process for closing and consolidating USPS facilities across the country. As the Representative for a Northern and Central New York Congressional District, I am keenly aware of the value that these facilities provide to rural communities and the challenge that closure or consolidation of those facilities presents. To that end, I write to ask that as the process for carrying out the rulemaking process unfolds, your office act with the highest levels of transparency and coordination before making changes that stand to affect America's underserved communities.

As you well know, proposed changes in postal service are an understandable source of alarm for USPS customers and employees alike. Closure and consolidation of USPS facilities stands to affect the local job market, as well reduce available services to rural and especially elderly customers. With that in mind, I would again reiterate my request for USPS to act with full transparency and sincere engagement of all interested parties in this rulemaking process. More generally, I urge caution and thoughtful consideration before proceeding with closures or consolidations as Congress considers more reasonable approaches to the Postal Service's financial difficulties.

I appreciate your consideration. Feel free to contact me any time if I can be of service.

Sincerely,

Bill Owens
Member of Congress

RECEIVED

MAY 2 2011

CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS

ALBIO SIRES
13TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
WESTERN HEMISPHERE
EUROPE AND EURASIA

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.HOUSE.GOV/SIRES](http://www.house.gov/sires)



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3013

2342 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-7919

35 JOURNAL SQUARE, SUITE 906
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306
(201) 222-2828

5500 PALISADE AVENUE, SUITE A
WEST NEW YORK, NJ 07093
(201) 558-0800

BAYONNE CITY HALL
630 AVENUE C, ROOM 9
BAYONNE, NJ 07002
(201) 823-2900

100 COOKE AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR
CARTERET, NJ 07008
(732) 969-9160

1 OLIVE STREET, 2ND FLOOR
PERTH AMBOY, NJ 08861
(732) 442-0610

April 29, 2011

Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260-2600

RECEIVED

MAY 2 2011

CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS

Dear Postmaster General Donahoe,

I write to express my concern with the proposed postal regulations published in the March 31, 2011 Federal Register under the heading "Post Office Organization and Administration: Establishment, Classification, and Discontinuance." I believe that the regulations proposed by the United States Postal Service (USPS) threaten access to postal services by putting post offices at risk of closure and contradict federal law.

Specifically, I am concerned with the implications that the proposed regulations would have on post office closure procedure. Current law provides specific statutory guidelines that the USPS must follow when closing or consolidating a post office. The proposed regulations appear to permit the USPS to consolidate or relocate a post office into another retail facility by administratively re-designating it as a "station" or "branch" without following the statutory post office closure process as specified in 39 USC 404(d)(1). This novel re-designation process appears to be an attempt to subvert the statutory protections and procedures provided by law to post offices. As the USPS operates on two types of closing procedures, stations and branches are not subject to the same statutory procedures, protections, and appeals as post offices. This attempt to subvert legal closing procedures for post offices is in direct contradiction to the spirit of 39 USC 101(b), which states that "No small post office shall be closed solely for operating at a deficit, it being the specific intent of the Congress that effective postal services be insured to the residents of both urban and rural communities." Furthermore, this process would bypass the extremely important public notification and comment period required of the USPS under law. Excluding the affected citizens from the closure decision-making process threatens access to postal services. If the USPS proposes to close or consolidate a post office, it must adhere to the public discontinuance process required by law.

Additionally, I am concerned with the proposed regulation, 39 CFR 241.1, which states that "a post office maybe operated or managed by a postmaster, or by another type of postal employee." As you know, a Postmaster is defined in 39 USC 1004(3)(i) as "an individual who is the manager

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2011

Manager, Customer Service Standardization
Attn: Retail Discontinuance
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Room 6816
Washington, DC 20260-6816

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MAY 2 2011

CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS

Dear Sir:

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the Proposed Postal Service Rule 39 CFR Part 241, Post Office Organization and Administration: Establishment, Classification, and Discontinuance, that was published in the Federal Register on Thursday, March 31, 2011.

It is my understanding that the above proposed rule would amend postal regulations as they pertain to post office closure and consolidation. As you know the decision to close or consolidate any post office is a serious one. Folks nationwide have come to rely on the United States Postal Service (USPS) as a reliable, timely, and secure means of receiving and sending letters and parcels. In my time in Congress, I have supported the USPS and worked to help maintain its level of efficiency. The proposed rule, however, I am afraid may endanger the USPS' ability to adequately serve.

The proposal, in allowing the USPS to convert an independent post office into a "subordinate Postal Service-operated retail facility", would exempt it from important appeal protections. In other words, my Long Island constituents would no longer have the ability to appeal the determination to close or consolidate a local facility.

In my district on Long Island, our post offices are highly regarded. Just last Congress, I was pleased to have legislation passed to rename a post office in my district in honor of the great service of a past USPS worker. At a time when so many services are being curtailed, I know that my constituents, especially the most vulnerable populations, cannot afford further barriers to services they rely on.

The above proposal, if not leading to widespread closure and consolidation of post offices nationwide, still may severely diminish the quality of services available. I am particularly concerned with Subsection 24.1, which would allow post offices to be run by other employees aside from postmasters, as is currently the case. Congress has the responsibility to set the rule and standards governing our post offices, and I am concerned that this regulation is moving forward without Congressional involvement.

I support and understand the need to take a serious look at how we can maximize efficiency and reduce costs within the USPS, but I believe that we must proceed carefully and ensure that vital services are not taken away from our constituents.

Thank you for taking these comments on this proposed rule into consideration.

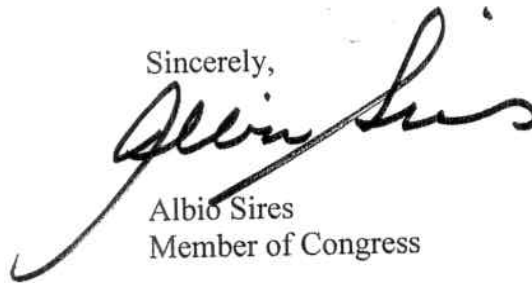
Sincerely,


Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

in charge of a post office, with or without the assistance of subordinate managers of supervisors." Therefore, this regulation would also contradict current law.

I understand that the USPS is facing increasingly difficult economic times and that smart changes must be made to keep the USPS viable for the future. But as the USPS adapts to meet its financial challenges, I urge you to work to ensure that the changes made are in line with current law. USPS reforms must reflect the importance of providing citizens in all communities with access to postal services. Thank you for your consideration of my concerns and for your continued service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Albio Sires", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

CC: Manager, Customer Service Standardization

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2011

Manager, Customer Service Standardization
Attn: Retail Discontinuance
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Room 6816
Washington, DC 20260-6816

RECEIVED

MAY 2 2011

**CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS**

To Whom It May Concern:

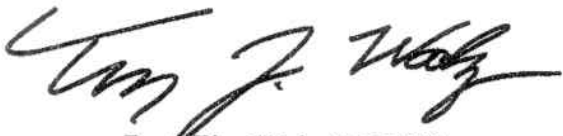
We are writing you today to submit our comments about the regulations proposed on March 31, 2011 by the United States Postal Service.

Proposed regulation 39 CFR 241.1 seeks to change the definition of a Postmaster by asserting that a post office may be operated or managed by a postmaster, or by another type of postal employee. We want to ensure that this proposed regulation does not conflict with the definition established in The Postmaster Equity Act (PL 108-86).


In addition, as people who represent many rural communities, we are concerned about the proposed regulation which aims to establish that the conversion of a post office to a subordinate station or branch would no longer be subject to the same procedures applied to the closings of post offices. We believe that these actions should be subject to a notice and comment period and review by the Postal Regulatory Commission.

We urge you to seriously consider these proposed regulations before they are finalized and understand how they will affect dedicated postal workers and rural areas around the country.

Sincerely,



Rep. Tim Walz (MN-01)



Rep. Collin Peterson (MN-07)

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
RANKING MEMBER
WESTERN HEMISPHERE SUBCOMMITTEE
EUROPE AND EURASIA SUBCOMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE
ENERGY AND POWER SUBCOMMITTEE
ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC WHIP



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
ELIOT L. ENGEL

17th DISTRICT, NEW YORK

2161 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3217
(202) 225-2464

DISTRICT OFFICES:
3655 JOHNSON AVENUE
BRONX, NY 10463
(718) 796-9700

6 GRAMATAN AVENUE
SUITE 205
MOUNT VERNON, NY 10550
(914) 699-4100

261 WEST NYACK ROAD
WEST NYACK, NY 10994
(845) 735-1000

WEBSITE: <http://engel.house.gov>

April 29, 2011

Annette P. Raney
Customer Service Standardization,
ATTN: Retail Discontinuance, 475
L'Enfant Plaza SW., Room 6816
Washington, DC 20260-6816

RECEIVED

MAY 2 2011

CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS

Re: Proposed rules for **Post Office Organization and Administration: Establishment, Classification, and Discontinuance.**

Dear Ms. Raney,

I submit these comments to express concerns that I, and my constituents, have with some of the newly proposed rules listed in the March 31, 2011, Federal Register. The Post Office and its facilities are an essential part of many of my constituent's lives. Postal facilities are a life line to many elderly and poor constituents; therefore it is essential that a proper level service is maintained. While I do understand the financial hardships that the Post Office is facing, any changes must be done in a responsible manner, that still maintains a level of service the constituents of the 17th Congressional District have received.

I. Application of Post Office Discontinuance Procedures to Other Retail Facilities

Under this proposed rule, independent postal offices that became designated as a Postal Service-operated retail facility and would no longer have to follow the standard procedure for closing. Under this proposed rule the newly designated facility would no longer be defined as "closing" or "consolidating" and therefore could be shut without the proper procedure allowing for public comment and appeal. This is not in the best interests of the Post Office nor the customers it serves. I ask that this proposed rule be re-visited to have all postal operations follow the same standard procedure for shutting down.

II. Procedural Changes

Under this rule, the Post Office would change the current 90 day waiting period for a Post Office shut down to 60 days. This rule change seems unnecessary, as public input is vital and all efforts must be made to make sure that the public's voice is heard. I also expect that the new explicit instructions that will be given to the District Managers regarding the commencement of discontinuance study, take into account the customers, and not just the financial bottom line.

III. Analysis of Proposed Changes

The change in this rule, of Subsection 241.1(a) would allow non-postmasters to manage Postal facilities. I am concerned that non-qualified personnel could be selected to operate a Post Office. Post Masters have run our postal facilities efficiently and diligently and I see no reason why this should be changed. Again under, this section of proposed changes, I voice my opposition to the changes to classifications that will allow newly designated Postal Service-operated retail facilities to be closed without the otherwise necessary procedures being followed.

In light of my above concerns and comments, I ask the proposed rules for the Post Office be either changed or delayed to allow for a better recommendation to be made. If you have any further comments or questions please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Eliot L. Engel". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Eliot L. Engel

Member of Congress

DAVID LOEBSACK
2ND DISTRICT, IOWA

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
MILITARY PERSONNEL
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EDUCATION AND LABOR
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS
EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY
AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1502

April 29, 2011

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1221 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6576

DISTRICT OFFICES:
125 SOUTH DUBUQUE STREET
IOWA CITY, IA 52240
(319) 351-0789

150 1ST AVENUE NE
SUITE 375
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401
(319) 364-2288
1 (866) 914-IOWA

RECEIVED

MAY 2 2011

**CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS**

Manager, Customer Service Standardization
Attn: Retail Discontinuance
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Room 6816
Washington, DC 20260-6816

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my concern over the proposed regulation, published in the Federal Register Vol. 76, No. 62 on March 31st, 2011, regarding the definition of a post office. Specifically, I am concerned that the changes in the proposed regulation would accelerate the trend of post office closures in rural areas by making it easier to close facilities and by allowing the United States Postal Service (USPS) to circumvent current transparency and accountability requirements that must be met prior to closing a post office.

As a member of Congress from Iowa, this trend is already affecting my state, where many small and rural offices are closing or are on the USPS "Study to Close" list. Post office closures make it difficult for many residents of rural areas, particularly seniors, to access postal services. What's more, the Postal Regulatory Commission has found that closing all small and rural post offices would not save a significant portion of the USPS budget, so closing rural post offices does not appear to be a worthwhile strategy for addressing USPS' financial difficulties.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,



Dave Loebsack
Iowa's 2nd District

Cc: Postmaster General Patrick Donahue

BOB FILNER
51ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE

AVIATION

HIGHWAY AND TRANSIT

WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 28, 2011

2428 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TEL: (202) 225-8043
FAX: (202) 225-9073

333 F STREET, SUITE A
CHULA VISTA, CALIFORNIA 91910
TEL: (619) 422-5963
FAX: (619) 422-7290

1101 AIRPORT ROAD, SUITE D
IMPERIAL, CALIFORNIA 92251
TEL: (760) 355-8800
FAX: (760) 355-8802

website: www.house.gov/filner

Richard Rudez
Manager
USPS Customer Service Standardization
Attn: Retail Discontinuance
475 Lenfant Plz SW
Room 6816
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Richard:

I am writing in opposition to the proposed postal regulations that were posted in the Federal Register on March 31, 2011. These new regulations, if implemented, would violate title 39 of the United States Code in at least two ways.

First, the current law provides specific statutory guidelines that the United States Postal Service (USPS) must follow if it decides to close or consolidate a post office. By proposing to change the title of "Post Office" to "USPS-operated retail facility" and have the ability to consolidate an existing post office by administratively changing the designation to "station or branch", the USPS in essence would not have to comply with the current law since the law specifically provides guidelines for "post offices". Furthermore, by changing the title, the USPS would be able to subvert current law that requires the USPS to give the community a 60-day notice of a closure. In addition, the community will lose its right to have the closure decisions reviewed by the Postal Regulatory Commission.

Second, the proposed rules also violate the law by redefining the position of "postmaster" which is presently defined in the statute. The proposed regulation would change the definition by asserting that "*a post office may be operated or managed by a postmaster, or by another type of postal employee*". The Postmasters Equity Act enacted as Public Law specifically and unambiguously stipulates that a "postmaster" manages a post office. Consequently, the Postal Service cannot by regulation delegate the managerial responsibility of a post office to "another type of postal employee" as the agency desires to do in its proposed regulations.

Richard Rudez
April 28, 2011
Page 2

If implemented, these rules would have broad and irreparable implications for the impacted community. Therefore, I request that the U.S. Postal Service not implement the regulations that were filed on March 31, as they are in violation of current statute.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob", is written over the printed name.

BOB FILNER
Member of Congress

Cc: Patrick Donahoe

BF/lc
2577547

TIM GRIFFIN
2ND DISTRICT, ARKANSAS
ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

1501 NORTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE
SUITE 150
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72207
PHONE: (501) 324-5941
FAX: (501) 324-6029

1232 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-2506
FAX: (202) 225-5903

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0402

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
SEAPOWERS AND PROJECTION FORCES

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME,
TERRORISM, AND HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY,
COMPETITION, AND THE INTERNET

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND EURASIA
(VICE CHAIRMAN)

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM,
NONPROLIFERATION, AND TRADE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA,
GLOBAL HEALTH, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

May 2, 2011

The Honorable Patrick Donahoe
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 Lenfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260-0004

Dear Postmaster General Donahoe:


I write today to express my concerns regarding the United States Postal Service's (USPS) proposed rule to amend postal regulations regarding the Post Office closure and consolidation process.

I have heard from many of my constituents, particularly in Arkansas's more rural areas, about the USPS's proposed rule to re-designate thousands of these rural post offices as stations or branches of another post office. I believe that the current system is preferable as it provides a fair process for rural communities to participate in the decision to close or consolidate post offices.

These small rural post offices serve as access points to the postal system and are critical parts of these local communities, which support thousands of small and family-owned businesses. I understand that the USPS is currently facing budget shortfalls and is working to ensure its viability for the future; however, according to the Postal Regulatory Commission, the cost of operating all these small rural post offices is less than one percent of the Postal Service budget.

I do not believe that the USPS should unfairly target rural post offices. I urge you to consider these concerns and reject this proposed rule. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Tim Griffin
Member of Congress

JO ANN EMERSON
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
8TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

COMMITTEE:
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
CHAIR, FINANCIAL
SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

<http://www.house.gov/emerson>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2508
April 29, 2011

OFFICES:
2230 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4404

555 INDEPENDENCE STREET
SUITE 1400
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO 63703
(573) 335-0101

1301 KINGSHIGHWAY
ROLLA, MO 65401
(573) 364-2455

22 EAST COLUMBIA
FARMINGTON, MO 63640
(573) 756-9755

35 COURT SQUARE
SUITE 300
WEST PLAINS, MO 65775
(417) 255-1515

Manager, Customer Service Standardization
ATTN: Retail Discontinuance
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Room 6816
Washington, DC 20260-6816

Dear: Manager, Customer Service Standardization

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the United States Postal Service's proposed rule on Post Office Organization and Administration: Establishment, Classification, and Discontinuance. This rule is one which will have significant impact on the level of service provided to my constituents and, I believe, skirts the intent of Congress to preserve access to post offices in rural America.

Proposed Rule Allows for Current Post Offices to be Redefined and Closed

This proposed rule would substantially weaken the procedural policies put in place by Congress to assure a community's concerns would be heard before a Post Office would be closed. Currently, notice must be provided and an opportunity to be heard and appeal the final decision before a Post Office can be closed. Under the proposed rule, the U.S. Postal Service would be allowed to unilaterally convert post offices to a station or branch which does not receive the same level of procedural protection.

In addition U.S. Code has placed a significant burden of proof on the USPS when making a determination to close or consolidate a Post Office. Among several other factors, the U.S. Postal Service must consider the effects on a community and employees. Under the proposed rule, the U.S. Postal Service would be allowed to unilaterally convert post offices to a station or branch. These facilities would not be subject to the same high standard of review prior to closing or consolidation.

The proposed rule's impact would be to severely weaken the protections the U.S. Code has provided to the Post Offices currently serving our communities. Congress acted with great intent to provide these communities with due process rights and the protection of additional criteria. This rule would weaken the protections for our Post Office required by law and, I believe, the proposed rule should be withdrawn and revised.

RECEIVED

MAY 3 2011

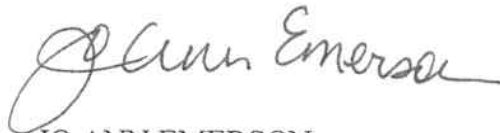
CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS

Proposed Rule Improperly Changes Management of Post Offices

Title 39 of the U.S. Code defines a Postmaster as "an individual who is the manager in charge of a post office, with or without the assistance of subordinate managers or supervisors." The proposed rule attempts to redefine the role and definition of Postal employees by allowing a post office to be operated or managed by a postmaster, "or by another type of postal employee." This change has raised concerns regarding the level of service our communities and constituents would receive. Postmasters are specially trained and qualified to manage post offices. I believe strongly that this proposed change would likely lessen the service and accountability to local communities and is improper under given the definition of Postmaster provided by law.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and concerns regarding the proposed rule on Post Office Organization and Administration: Establishment, Classification, and Discontinuance. The U.S. Postal Service faces many challenges; however, I have great concerns regarding any proposal which would reduce service and accountability to our local communities. Particularly when the intent of Congress for increased procedural protections has been so clearly stated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jo Ann Emerson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

JO ANN EMERSON
Member of Congress

cc: Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe

PAUL TONKO
21ST DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON
THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3221

April 29, 2011

422 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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(202) 225-5076

DISTRICT OFFICES:

61 COLUMBIA STREET
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ALBANY, NY 12210
(518) 465-0700

61 CHURCH STREET
ROOM 309
AMSTERDAM, NY 12010
(518) 843-3400

105 JAY STREET
ROOM 15
SCHENECTADY, NY 12305
(518) 374-4547

Manager, Customer Service Standardization
Attn: Retail Discontinuance
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Room 6816
Washington, DC 20260-6816

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MAY 3 2011

**CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS**

Dear Manager,

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the Proposed Postal Service Rule 39 CFR Part 241, Post Office Organization and Administration: Establishment, Classification, and Discontinuance, that was published in the Federal Register on Thursday, March 31, 2011.

In the proposed rules, the Postal Service would be allowed to convert an independent Post Office to a "subordinate Postal Service-operated retail facility." However, once this conversion occurred, important appeal protections would be lost, because it would no longer be considered a consolidation that would require the current discontinuance proceedings. I am concerned specifically about what this change would mean for my community. The Postal Service could easily re-designate existing Post Offices and this would mean that the impacted residents would no longer have the same protections and appeal rights. The result could be that it would become even easier for the Postal Service to close postal facilities in my district, without appropriate input from those most affected by the changes.

As the Representative for a district with both rural and urban communities, I am keenly aware of the value that these facilities provide to all my communities and the challenge that closure or consolidation of those facilities presents. To that end, I write to ask that as the process for carrying out the rulemaking process unfolds, your office act with the highest levels of transparency and coordination before making changes that stand to affect communities.

As you well know, proposed changes in postal service are an understandable source of alarm for USPS customers and employees alike. Closure and consolidation of USPS facilities stands to affect the local job market, as well reduce available services to elderly customers. With that in mind, I urge caution and thoughtful consideration before proceeding with closures or consolidations as Congress considers more reasonable approaches to the Postal Service's financial difficulties.

I am also concerned about the proposed change in Subsection 241.1 which states that post offices may be managed by postmasters, as is currently the case, or "by other designated personnel." It is my understanding that by statutory definition a postmaster is supposed to be the individual in

charge of our post offices. I am troubled by the fact that this could mean an individual with less expertise and training could be named to this position.

Thank you for taking these comments into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Paul D. Tonko". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

TAMMY BALDWIN
2ND DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

Website: tammybaldwin.house.gov

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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FAX: (202) 225-6942

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FAX: (608) 258-9808

400 EAST GRAND AVENUE, SUITE 402
BELOIT, WI 53511
TEL.: (608) 362-2800
FAX: (608) 362-2838

April 29, 2011

Manager, Customer Service Standardization
Attn: Retail Discontinuance
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Room 6816
Washington, DC 20260-6816

Cc:
Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260-2600

Dear Ms./Mr. Manager:

I am writing to express my concerns, and those of my constituents, about regulations proposed by the U.S. Postal Service on March 31, 2011.

In 2003, I cosponsored the Postmaster Equity Act, a measure that established the current legal definition of a Postmaster. I am concerned that regulations proposed on March 31, 2011 would alter the definition of "Postmaster" and allow other types of postal employees to manage a post office. Operating a post office without a Postmaster could lead to undue errors and a breakdown in quality services the American public has come to expect from the USPS.

In addition, I am concerned that the proposed regulations would authorize the closure or consolidation of a post office without Regulatory Commission appellate review. This change would strip local communities of the ability to appeal post office closures and could lead to a large number of rural post offices shutting their doors. I have heard from individuals in south central Wisconsin who have been deeply burdened by the closing of their local post offices and postal substations and have had to travel significant distances to buy stamps or mail a package. It is my belief that, at the very least, communities should be able to appeal the closure of their local post office.

Thank you for your work to help ensure a strong U.S. Postal Service now and into the future. I am hopeful that, as you continue to make difficult decisions about the future of the USPS, you will balance budgetary concerns with the interests of Wisconsin's postal employees and the needs of our nation's mail customers.

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MAY 3 2011

CUSTOMER SERVICES
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Thank you for your work to help ensure a strong U.S. Postal Service now and into the future. I am hopeful that, as you continue to make difficult decisions about the future of the USPS, you will balance budgetary concerns with the interests of Wisconsin's postal employees and the needs of our nation's mail customers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tammy Baldwin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1502

May 2, 2011

RECEIVED

MAY 3 2011

CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS

Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260-2600

Dear Postmaster General Donahoe:

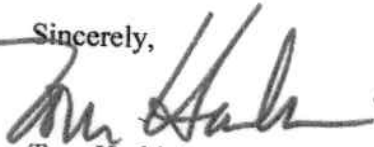
I write in opposition to the proposed regulations posted in the Federal Register on March 31, 2011. If enacted, the regulations will give the United States Postal Service (USPS) the right to convert post offices into stations or branches of larger post offices at USPS's discretion. Once converted, the USPS would then be able to close rural post offices without any consultation with local citizens or concern about the impact on a rural community.

It appears that the proposed regulations are designed specifically to circumvent current laws that ensure local voices are heard. As you know, today communities have the legal right to appeal the closure of their post office but they do not have a right to appeal the closure of a station or branch. Converting rural post offices into stations or branch will, therefore, severely diminish local communities' input.

I am also concerned about permitting an employee other than a postmaster to manage a facility. Currently, the Postmasters Equity Act states that a "postmaster" must manage a post office. This ensures that USPS facilities are managed by individuals who have adequate training and experience and that the mail is handled in a safe, secure and efficient manner. I do not believe that the proposed change is in the best interest of the USPS or its customers.

Postal service is essential to the vitality of communities and local businesses. It is critical that easy, effective communication be maintained throughout the United States. I recognize that our current postal service is in need of reform but I am deeply troubled that the proposed regulations will strip rural communities of their right to be heard, ignore the impact of decisions on our local communities, and do nothing to ensure the efficient delivery of the mail. I urge you to withdraw these proposed regulations.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin
United States Senator

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 18, 2011

Patrick R. Donahoe
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260

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MAY 2 2011

CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS

Postmaster General Donahoe:

We write to express our concerns with the proposed postal regulations published in the March 31, 2011, Federal Register under the heading, "Post Office Organization and Administration: Establishment, Classification, and Discontinuance." We believe the Postal Service's proposed regulations threaten rural postal service by putting rural post offices at risk of closure contradicting federal law.

In particular, we believe the proposed regulations may contradict 39 U.S. Code § 101(b): "No small post office shall be closed solely for operating at a deficit, it being the specific intent of the Congress that effective postal services be insured to residents of both urban and rural communities," 39 U.S.C. § 1004(i)(3), "'Postmaster' means an individual who is the manager in charge of the operations of a post office, with or without the assistance of subordinate managers or supervisors," and 39 U.S.C. § 404(d), which establishes a specific set of considerations to be made prior to any final decision to close or consolidate a post office.

The new Postal Service regulations confuse and seem to alter the protections for small and rural communities. By creating multiple administrative terms under the heading "post office," such as "branch" and "station," the Postal Service seems to authorize for itself a novel process for consolidating post offices not authorized by federal law. This unilateral process runs contrary to the spirit of both 39 U.S.C. § 101(b) and 39 U.S.C. § 404(d). If the Postal Service proposes to close a post office or to consolidate it into any other administrative designation besides "post office," it must first perform the public discontinuance process required by 39 U.S.C. § 404(d). Or, if the Postal Service proposes to create new administrative classes of service locations that are considered "post offices" for the purposes of interpreting applicable federal laws, each of these locations must be managed by a postmaster, not a subordinate employee. 39 U.S.C. § 1004(i)(3) is quite clear in this regard.

The new rules would also seem to unfairly target rural areas of the country like Vermont. Among the newly detailed criteria, discontinuance studies may be initiated in the event of "insufficient customer demand, evidenced by declining or low volume, revenue, revenue units, local business activity or local population trends." Vermont is made up of countless small towns, many of which struggle economically and have declining populations. However, these small, rural post offices are often literally and figuratively at the center of these communities, and closing them would do the communities irreparable harm.



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

May 2, 2011

TOM LATHAM
Congressman
4th District, Iowa

Mr. Patrick R. Donahoe
Postmaster General
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, DC 20260

RECEIVED

MAY 2 2011

Dear Patrick:

CUSTOMER SERVICES
OPERATIONS

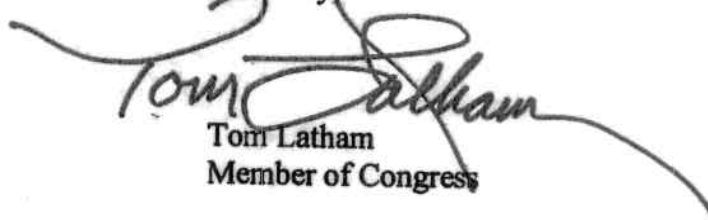
I write to express my concerns with the proposed United States Postal Service's (USPS) regulations (39 CFR Part 241) that were printed in the Federal Register on March 31, 2011.

I am particularly concerned that the proposed changes to the procedure for converting Post Offices to stations or branches, changes to the requirement for postmasters to supervise Post Offices, and allowing USPS headquarters rather than local districts to initiate discontinuance studies, may end or erode established community rights to appeal to the Postal Regulatory Commission regarding the closure of a post office.

The current process protects the integrity of small and rural post offices and the rights of the communities they serve. At a time when our nation and economy is burdened with uncertainty, it is more important than ever to protect the infrastructure for commerce in rural America that sustains the quality of life in our small communities.

I am deeply committed to ensuring a fiscally sound Postal Service, but I believe this is the wrong approach and that the USPS should look at other options before adopting these proposed changes. I look forward to working with you to address the issues the USPS faces in the future.

Sincerely,


Tom Latham
Member of Congress

TL/ta

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2217 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-5476
202-225-3301 Fax
1-866-428-5642 Toll Free

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515-232-2844 Fax

**Clear Lake/
Mason City Office:**
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515-573-2738
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